



## The new CD from Banda La Paranda gets a dousing!

A popular event in Aruba is the introduction of a new musical CD, usually accompanied by an original and appropriate way of “Christening” often with champagne. The introduction of the tenth CD by Banda La Paranda, a very popular Gaitas group, made quite a splash on this past Wednesday evening!

The parking lot of the Pre-Stage Club and Restaurant in Cura Cubay was packed with onlookers for a tremendous spectacle with the cooperation of the Brandweer, Aruba’s Fire Fighting Force. Choreographed by master showman Freddy Montoya, it left the audience awed, and wet!

Three onlookers were chosen for the occasion, and were provided plastic rain ponchos for protection. In stormed members of the Brandweer in full fire-fighting regalia with fire truck lights flashing, sirens blaring, and hoses ready to “Baptize” the new CD, and pretty much everyone else in the vicinity! Accompanied by the delightful music of Banda La Paranda, it was quite a show!

Each year for the last ten years the band has issued a new CD of traditional island Christmas music and this year, during the “christening” of their latest, they took some time to thank all those that have helped them to be a success over the years. Attractive certificates were awarded to various press members, radio stations, dance groups and others that have encouraged and assisted the group to become one of the most popular performing singers of holiday music in Aruba. Guests were treated to a piece of celebratory cake, and the new CD of Banda La Paranda 2005 was snapped up by fans to fill their homes with their favorite music while they decorate the “Kerstboom” or Christmas tree. The inscription on the cake said “better late than never” because all Arubans know that when Banda La Paranda issues their latest Christmas CD, the season has officially arrived!